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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application

Applicant: Puterka et al. : Art Unit: 1721  
Serial No.: 08/972,653 : Examiner: Richard D. Lovering  
Filed: November 18, 1997 : Batch No.: A38  
Date Allowed: August 19, 1999  
Title: METHOD FOR PROTECTING SURFACES FROM ARTHROPOD INFESTATION

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**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**  
**UNDER 37 CFR § 1.312**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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This paper is responsive to the Notice of Allowance mailed August 19, 1999. In the Reply filed June 4, 1999 responding to the Office Action mailed February 4, 1999, one point made was a distinction between calcined kaolin and hydrous kaolin. A number of differences were cited. Upon further review of the June 4, 1999 Reply, Applicants desire to clarify one sentence which detailed one of the distinctions between calcined kaolin and hydrous kaolin. In particular, the June 4, 1999 Reply stated "This is because the plate-like hydrous kaolin structures form a

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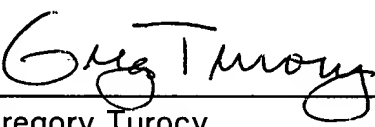
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well integrated film that is gas impermeable preventing gas exchange at the stomates of a plant (inhibiting stomatal activity)." Applicants would like to clarify this sentence to read --This is because the plate-like hydrous kaolin structures form a well integrated film that reduces gas permeability thereby reducing gas exchange at the stomates of a plant (inhibiting stomatal activity).- - It is believed that this change does not materially affect the thrust of the June 4, 1999 Reply, nor the patentability of the claims.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,  
RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, P.L.L.

  
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